

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: June 2, 2022
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) The filing period for candidacy for the State Primary Election and General Election is June 1-10. All those filing for office must have been registered voters by May 31.
- 2) Tax bills have been mailed with a July 1st due date. The first bill of the year is based on the tax rate set in 2021 with property valuation updates made for any changes to the property completed by April 1, 2022.
- 3) Members of the Bedford Police Department will be participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for NH Special Olympics on June 3, 2022. Please support them if you see them!
- 4) The Bedford Farmers Market opens June 14th and continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM until October 11th at Murphy's Taproom parking lot, 393 Route 101.

- 5) Bedford Memorial Pool – The pool is scheduled to open on Father's Day, June 19th. Seasonal pool passes are available through the Recreation Department: single \$75, family \$125, and family with baby sitter \$145. Passes are free for those over 60 years of age.
- 6) The Bedford Library Summer Reading Program is back again this year with a theme of "Oceans of Possibilities". Please see the Library Facebook or Website for more information.



- 7) Legislation Update – HB1221 which will provide a one-time payment of 7.5% of the employer costs for teachers, police officers, and firefighters for FY2023 passed. SB401 which will provide approximately double our typical highway funding passed. HB1547 passed providing an additional \$25M to the PFAS remediation loan fund.
- 8) PFAS Contamination – NHDES held a virtual public information meeting on May 4th where they described their recent agreement with Saint-Gobain that provides for point of entry treatment systems and a few public water connections for properties south of Country Road and East of Liberty Hill Road. To see if your specific property has been identified for a solution, please see the agreement on the NHDES website or the Town website at: [NHDES-Press-Release-on-partial-PFAS-mitigation-4-18-2022](#) No information has been provided for the remaining properties in the Saint-Gobain consent decree area. A video recording of the meeting is available through BCTV on demand and the NHDES YouTube site.

Saint Gobain is continuing to test a large number of private wells in southeastern Bedford. If you have received a request for well testing from Golder Associates it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.

Outside of the Saint-Gobain area of responsibility (generally north of Route 101) residents can request that their well water be tested by submitting an application through the NHDES

website at: <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/> NHDES is also sending letters to residents in this area that are within 500 feet of a well that has tested above the PFAS limits requesting to test your well.

The Department of Public Works has submitted a \$1.5M grant request with NHDES in hopes of being able to extend a public water main down Bedford Center Road to Primary Plaza to address PFAS contamination in that area.

The Town has also submitted a grant that would allow for the reimbursement of property owners up to \$6,500 who are outside of the Saint-Gobain consent decree area that have PFAS readings above State standards who install treatment systems or connect to public water. The State has now announced their intention to provide a \$5,000 reimbursement for treatment systems and a \$10,000 grant for connections to water mains which may mean our grant may not be awarded or necessary. Both grants are awaiting State approval.

Project Updates:

- 1) DPW Accreditation – Our DPW team has been working the last two years on becoming accredited by updating and creating policies and procedures for all of their responsibilities and the national review team is on site this week evaluating the team.
- 2) Personnel – The organization continues to be impacted by COVID with several people out in various departments each week. A DPW employee has given notice, which now makes 3.5 openings in DPW. There are 3 openings in the Fire Department plus two remain out on extended leave. The Police Department has 1 patrol and 1 Accreditation Manager/Analyst position open. The Deputy Town Clerk position remains open which can only be filled by Bedford residents. Those interested should contact the Town Clerk for more information. Applications are also being accepted for the Director of Strategic Initiatives. Our new Payroll Clerk and BCTV Production Manager have started.
- 3) Collective Bargaining Agreements – Initial meetings have been held with the Fire & DPW unions. Proposals and counter proposals are being evaluated by the management teams.

Events:

- June 4 – Bedford High School Graduation, 10 AM. BCTV will be broadcasting Graduation live on Channels 23 and HD1072.
- June 13 – Library Summer Reading Kick Off Concert, Ben Rudnick & Friends, 6:30 PM, Bedford Village Common.
- June 14 – Bedford Farmers Market opens for the season, Tuesdays, 3-6 PM, 393 Route 101 Murphy's Taproom.
- June 25 – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 7 – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- **June 8 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- June 9 – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- ~~June 9 – 9:00 AM, Poles & Wires Committee~~
- ~~June 13 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board~~
- June 21 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- **June 22 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**

- June 23 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- June 24 – 9:00 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- June 27 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- June 28 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- June 28 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission

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